

Father Survey Themes



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Transforming Systems Through Father and Provider Voices

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Father Survey



Survey Overview

BACKGROUND

Distributed through Council network

Administered online over 3 weeks

Had to identify as father and reside in WA

126 Fathers completed survey

80% engaged in systems/supports in past year

TOPICS

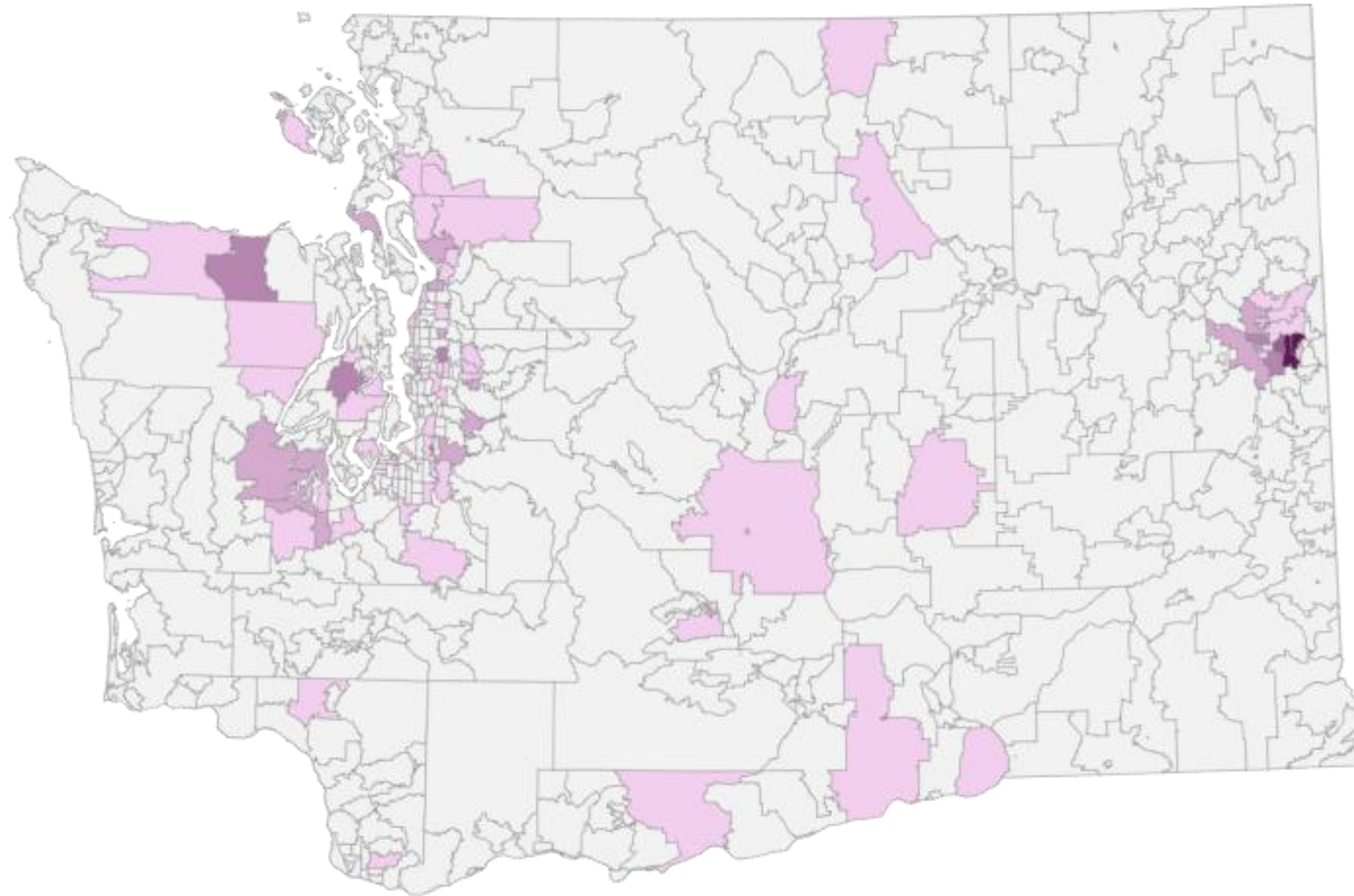
Relationships and Belonging

Supports, Services, and Challenges

Family Structure

Demographics

Responses by Zip Code



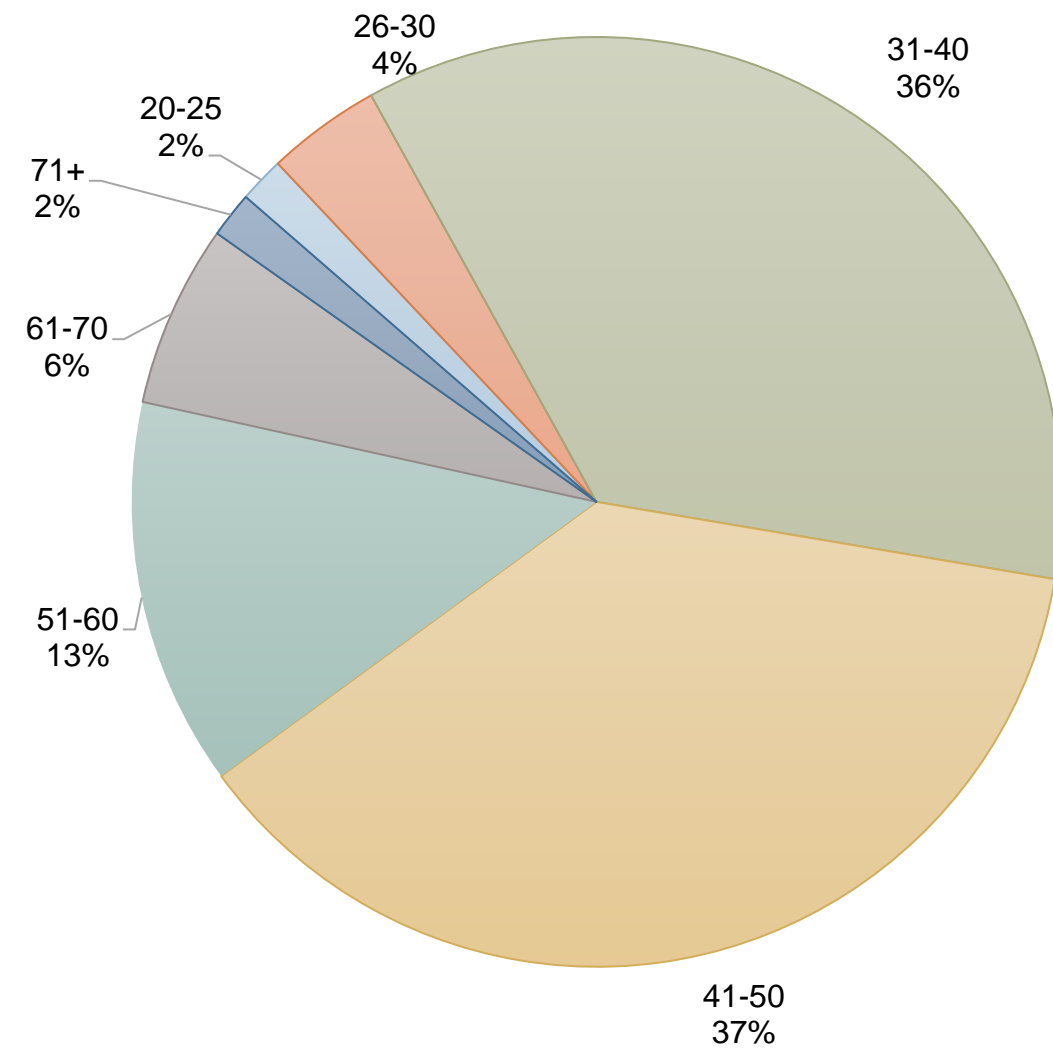
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Race and Ethnicity

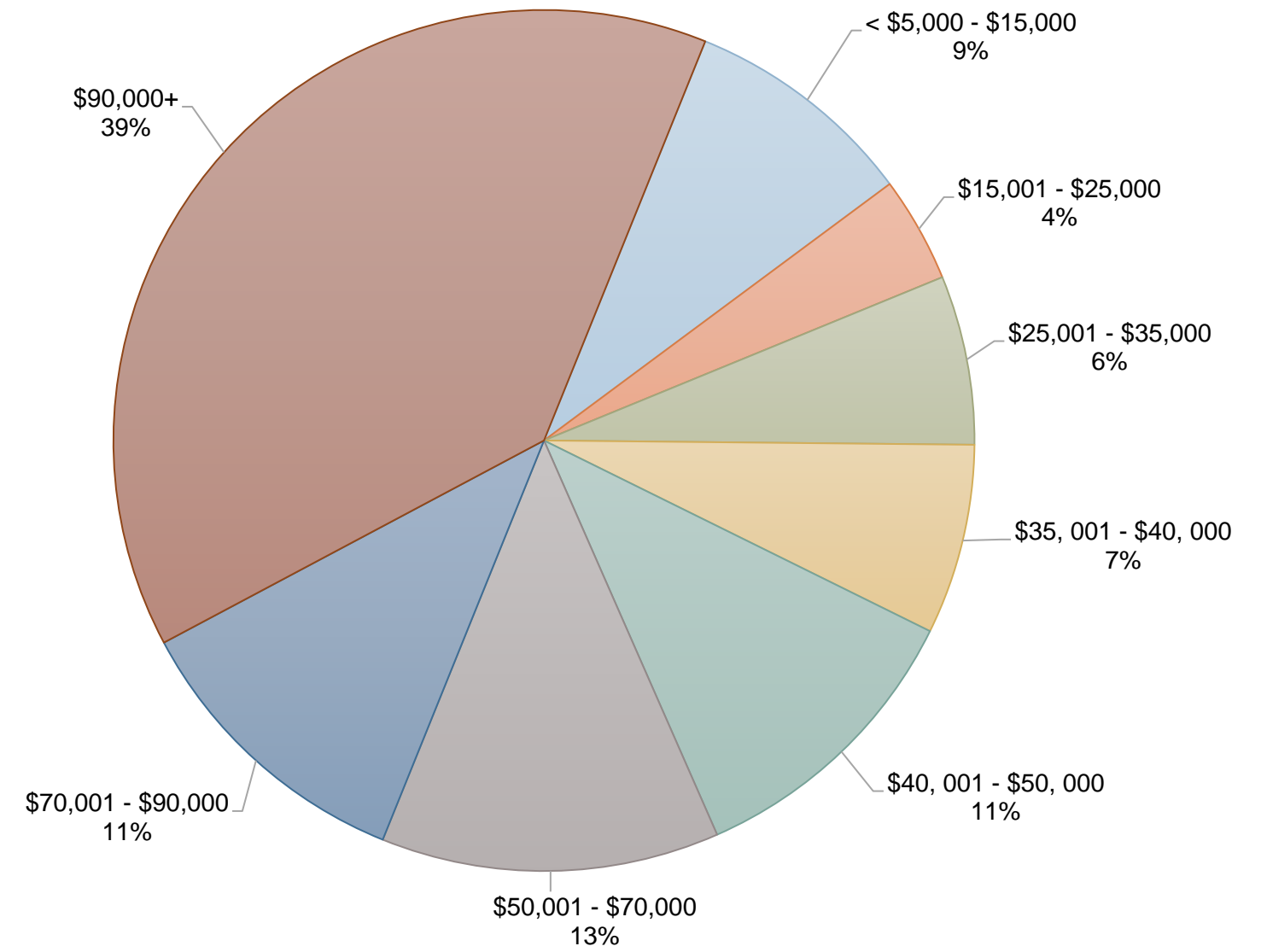
Response	Frequency
White	88
Latino/x	17
Black, African, African American	13
American Indian or Alaska Native	10
Asian	10
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1
Middle Eastern or North African	1
Another race, ancestry, or ethnic origin	4
Prefer Not to Answer	12

Father Age and Household Income

Percent of Fathers by Age (in years)



Percent of Fathers by Household Income



Belonging and Well-Being

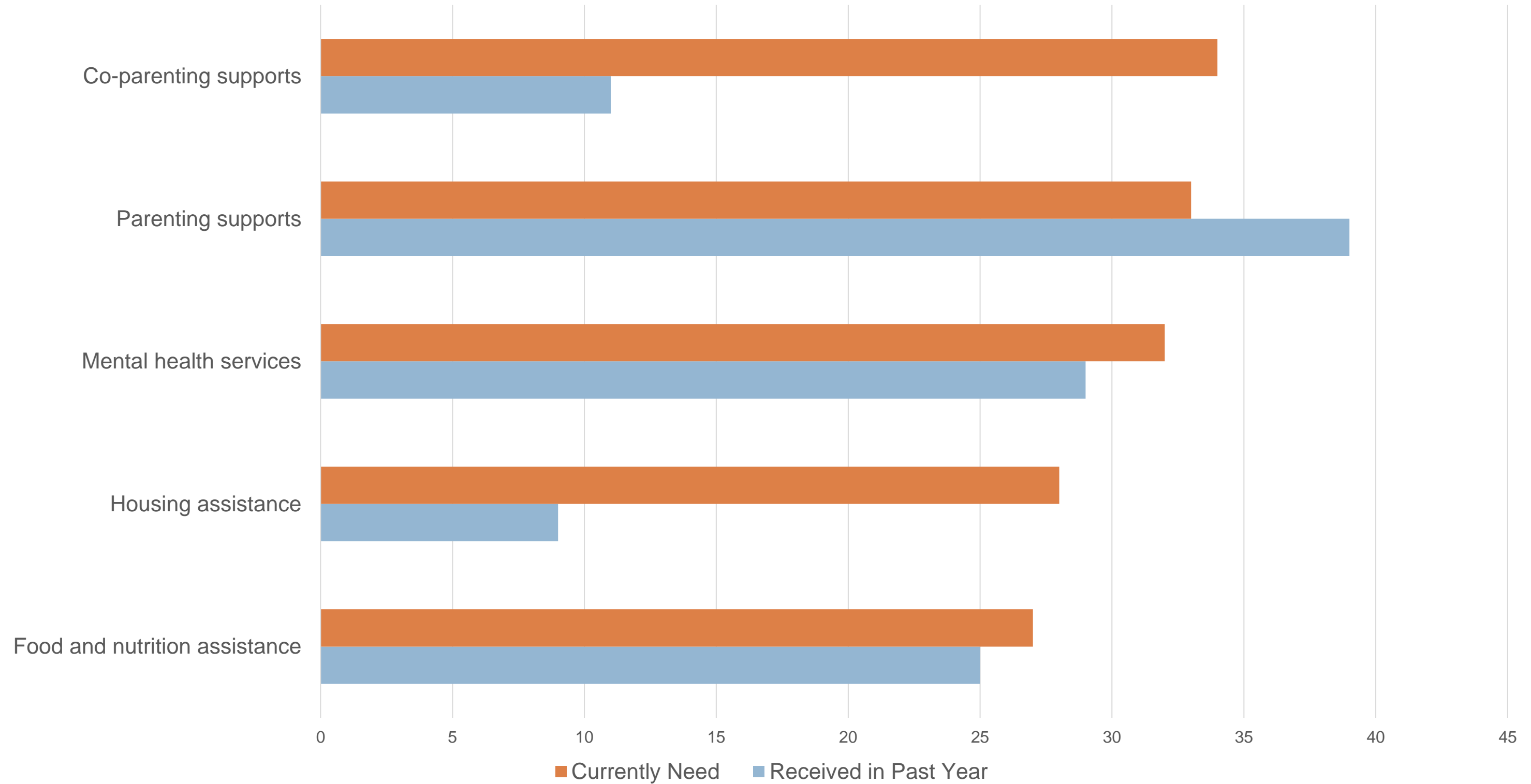
Only...

36% of fathers reported consistently getting the social and emotional support they need

Only...

41% of fathers reported consistently feeling a sense of belonging in their communities

Top 5 Supports Needed vs. Received



Top 5 Barriers to Receiving Services

(1)

Don't qualify for/ can't afford needed services

(2)

Can't locate needed services

(3)

Mother-oriented service environments

(4)

Gender-based discrimination

(5)

Non-inclusive invitations (unclear if fathers are welcome)

Reducing Barriers to Receiving Services

“It seems like the cutoff for family financial assistance doesn't track with the cost of living. We are over the limit by a few thousand/year and that aid drop off is brutal.”

“Make the services more readily available (long waitlists, not available nearby) and affordable.”

“Make it easier to learn what services are available. I have always had to search and fight on my own. No one has ever volunteered helpful information.”

“Provide more direct assistance for fathers specifically.”

“Have more services geared towards dads. Everything seems to be geared towards moms.”

“Seek to reinforce community programs that invite and encourage fathers to participate for purposes of support, enrichment, and education.”

(1) Don't qualify for/ can't afford needed services

(2) Can't locate needed services

(3) Mother-oriented service environments

(4) Gender-based discrimination

(5) Non-inclusive invitations (unclear if fathers are welcome)



Provider Interviews

Overview of Interviews

Interviewed 8 providers (5 female, 3 male) championing work with fathers in WA

Participants held a range of direct service, administrative, and leadership roles in government agencies and nonprofits

Questions about perspectives on fathers and how providers developed those perspectives

Personal and Family Experiences

“My personal and professional positions just have kind of guided me to this spot of making sure there needs to be equitable services.”

“My brother is a single dad now- I want to make sure he has support, he has people who believe in him because he does not feel supported. He thinks everyone is against him. I want dads to know that people want them around and that we care.”

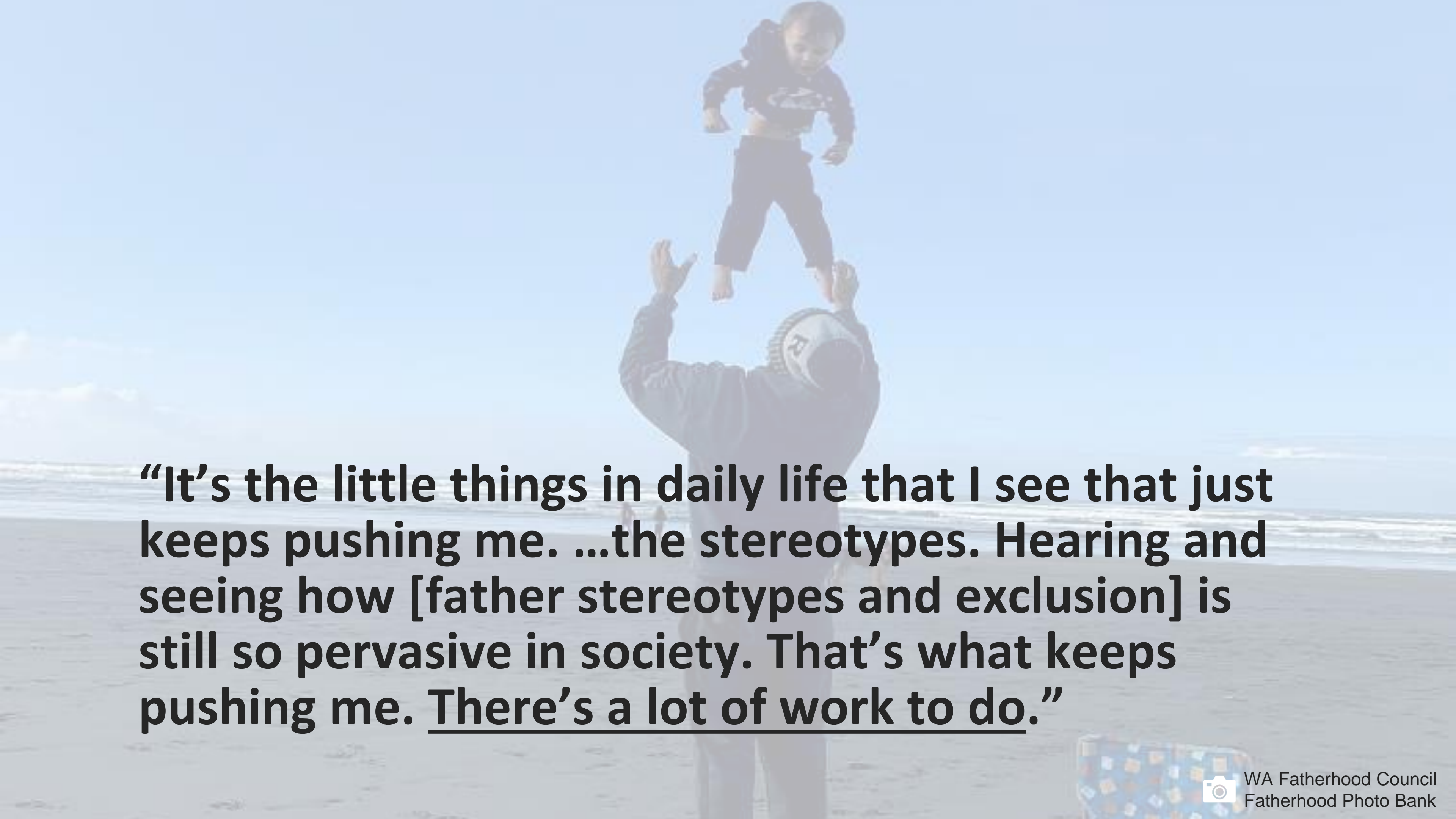
"Nobody acknowledged you [as a father]. I was present but I was not part of the birthing process [of my first child]. I was a spectator. I was watching things happening. I didn't want to go through that again for nothing in life, so with that motivation, instead of developing anger and bitterness toward the staff and institutional system I said 'Let me turn around and use this as a stepping stone. Use this as motivation. Use this as a background to make something better, something higher.' And that's how I came into what I do.”

Dads' Stories are Powerful

“I sat down with him and heard his story, and I was just absolutely stunned and saddened by how much he had to go through to become a parent.”

“[One inspiration has been] getting to spend time with our Director of Fatherhood...and getting to hear his stories, like knowing him personally, working with him, and getting to hear his perspectives.”

"Watching those, probably about 25 hours of [Fatherhood Council] webinars made me want to crawl out of my skin because it ignited, [...] everything I have been taught in all of my years. And once I see it, I can't not do something about it.”

A photograph of a father lifting a young child into the air on a beach. The father is wearing a dark jacket and a white cap with a logo. The child is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and dark pants. The background shows a sandy beach, the ocean, and a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, black font.

“It’s the little things in daily life that I see that just keeps pushing me. ...the stereotypes. Hearing and seeing how [father stereotypes and exclusion] is still so pervasive in society. That’s what keeps pushing me. There’s a lot of work to do.”